

Highlights

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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Paintball!

Come out and have some fun!

This Saturday, January 17th, we are going to play **Paintball!**

Paintball is a popular game in the U.S. People are armed with “guns” and shoot paint at their “enemies” in a wooded setting.

When: Saturday, January 17th. Meet at the Norman garage at 12:00 pm. We will return mid-afternoon

Cost: The cost is \$25 for equipment and 300 paintballs. You may purchase 500 paintballs for \$35. You must pay this amount IN CASH.

This is a carpool trip. Please sign up on the activities board by Thursday at 3pm. We need 20 people so that we can get our own field.

So come and play!

Notes from the Office

- **Immunizations**-Don't forget; we must have proof of your immunizations for you to be allowed to attend classes. The deadline this semester is Friday, January 16th. We often have quite a few students who are very surprised to be pulled out of

classes at this particular time for this particular reason. Don't be one of them!

- **Class Attendance**-Remember, your attendance is very, very important. Your teachers are taking note of both your absences and your tardies in every class every day.
- **Student Mailbox**-Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time. There is mail for some returning students already.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to the **Hoggetowne Medieval Faire**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from January 12-22:

Students:
January 12: Siriporn Chaichana
January 12: Mario Suanno
January 12: GeaHyung Yoon
January 13: Sarita Salgado

January 15: Francheska Rivera
January 20: Oumou Fofana

Staff:
None this week!

Happy Birthday to one and all!

ELI Countries Represented

The following is a list of ELI Countries represented by our students, listed by the country or area you put down when you signed in:

Afghanistan	Libya
Brazil	Niger
Burkina Faso	Peru
Chile	Oman
China	Qatar
Colombia	Saudi Arabia
Côte d'Ivoire	Spain
Czech Republic	Sri Lanka
Dominican Rep.	Taiwan
Ecuador	Thailand
Germany	Turkey
Honduras	Ukraine
Japan	UAE
Jordan	United States
Korea	Venezuela

Manners and Culture

Q: I wonder about American tip culture. Who should I tip? How much? In my country, we don't tip.

Interesting you should ask; usually, we don't have any questions yet, and I run a tip column instead of a manners column. So, I'm going to give you my standard answer!

Well, most often, you tip for services received. The origin of the word "tip" is something that is not 100% certain, but the most common story is that it comes from the acronym To Insure Prompt Service. There are many situations where tipping is expected, but there are some that you might think require tipping that don't. The following is a pretty good indicator--though not a totally exhaustive list--of when and where and how much you should tip:

Hairdressers and Nail Sculptors: 15 to 20% of the total bill

Hotels: Bellhops, \$1 per bag; \$5 minimum total; Concierge, \$5 to \$10 for special services; Maids, for long stays, \$1 per person per night, at the end of stay; Room Service, 15% of total-sometimes this

amount or even more is already added in bill (check!)

Parking: Valet parking at a hotel or restaurant, \$2. Note that many people now tip both dropping off and picking up.

Pizza Delivery: \$1 per pizza

Restaurants: 15 to 20% of the total bill; more if the service was particularly memorable or if you have many special requests which are promptly and cheerfully honored. Tipping in restaurants is particularly important here in the US; servers in restaurants have a minimum wage of only \$2.13 an hour--less than 40% of the national minimum wage.

Taxis: \$1 minimum, 15% on fares over \$8. Drivers in large cities expect 20%.

Additionally, in some places, there will be people who help you outside with your purchases (as in the grocery store). With a particularly helpful person or a particularly large order, you may offer a tip of a dollar or two--but if you see a sign inside the store (once again, as in many grocery stores), that employees are not allowed to accept tips, don't offer. Another note to remember about tipping is that when you are part of a large party in a restaurant and you are splitting the bill, make sure that you calculate and include the tip in the amount you contribute to the total amount paid; this is a common error which often shortchanges the service person. Some

restaurants nowadays automatically include a 15% gratuity in the bill for large groups.

Q: Why do Americans like beer so much?

A: It seems that way, doesn't it? You're in a college town, and college students tend to drink more beer than a lot of the population at large. It's a fairly inexpensive way to consume alcohol. The US, though, isn't even in the top 10 when it comes to per capita beer consumption--we rank only 13th. The top 12, in order are: the Czech Republic, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Austria, the UK, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Slovakia, and Spain.

Grammar

No grammar questions yet this week! Be sure to send me some.

Quote of the Week

One has to get on with life and I haven't done badly. People won't have time for you if you are always angry or complaining.

– Stephen Hawking

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